

Crewkerne

WEEKENDER

Issue 12 December 17 2010

A night in Bethlehem

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save recycling centre**

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weekender weather

Friday 17th Dec	Saturday 18th Dec	Sunday 19th Dec	Monday 20th Dec
 Scattered snow showers High 2° Low -2°	 Light snow High 2° Low -2°	 Light snow High 2° Low -1°	 Light snow High 2° Low -1°
Tuesday 21st Dec	Wednesday 22nd Dec	Thursday 23rd Dec	 Please remember to recycle this newspaper
 Light rain High 4° Low -1°	 Mostly sunny High 4° Low 0°	 Rain/snow High 4° Low 1°	

Website of the week

<https://slp3.somerset.gov.uk/schools/greenfylde/default.aspx>

Greenfylde Church of England First School

Greenfylde Church of England First School is set in the heart of the town of Ilminster. It has around 270 pupils on roll, arranged in 10 classes. The children almost all come from the town, but a few join us from outlying villages. The school is very proud to be community based, working with local organisations for the benefit of the pupils and the local community. As a Church of England School, it is our role to serve the families and children within the local community. This is regardless of gender, disability, special educational need, ethnic or social background or whether the family is of any particular faith or none. Our aim is to be as inclusive as possible. Visit the new website for the latest prospectus and newsletter as well as a school tour and gallery.

Greenfylde
Church of England First School

Trader information for shoppers

A NEW map and display board designed to show shoppers what Crewkerne has to offer has been unveiled where the main car park leads into Falkland Square.

It was put up in answer to complaints that visitors to the Waitrose store were unaware that they could easily walk from the car park to the town centre.

The board was funded by South Somerset District Council after the town's improvement group A Better Crewkerne and District (ABCD) applied for a grant.

The sum of £2,000 was allocated from SSDC's Market Town Investment Group fund during the last financial year, and a further £1,200 was granted from Somerset county councillor John Dyke's final community budget, which ran up until spring this year.

SSDC and ABCD have been working together to get the board designed and created along similar lines to one which has proved popular in Ilminster.

District councillor Kim Turner, chair of the Market Town Investment Group explained: "Traders boards have been very successful elsewhere in the district. They benefit the traders as they give visitors a quick snapshot of the wide range of shops and businesses within the town and help shoppers find out what's on offer."

"It has been an excellent partnership project as we all wanted to work together



■ **POINTING THE WAY:** District Councillor Kim Turner, chair of the Market Town Investment Group; Diane Butler - chairman of ABCD; Zoe Harris SSDC regeneration officer; Town Councillor Hilary Leamon and County Councillor John Dyke

By Marion Draper

with ABCD, which is a very active community group. The work ties in nicely with the recent pedestrian walkway enhancement nearby which is really making a difference and allowing shoppers a clear route between the town's two main shopping areas."

Diane Butler, chairman of ABCD said: "This lies at the heart of our mission to work towards developing an economically and

socially vibrant community in a sustainable environment. The traders' board is aimed at encouraging shoppers to leave the car parks behind and find their way to the town centre to see just what the local traders of Crewkerne have to offer."

"I would like to express my thanks to the Market Towns Investment Group, John Dyke and the three levels of local government who have enabled ABCD

to deliver a range of improvements in the town.

"Without this support our projects would not have been so successful. We hope that our partnership with them will continue to prove beneficial for Crewkerne in the future."

Somerset county councillor John Dyke added: "Waitrose attracts people from a large catchment area and so not all visitors are familiar with Crewkerne town centre. The display will help to encourage more people to step out

into the centre to visit a wider array of shops which

is great for the local economy."

Crewkerne news

Ex-landlord admits stabbing

EX LANDLORD of the Kings Arms in Crewkerne, Robert Wilcox, was sentenced on Monday, December 13th, after pleading guilty to stabbing one of his customers.

Despite previously denying the assault he recently admitted he knifed 28 year-old Daniel Martin, previously barred, through a gap in the door as he was trying to get into the pub, on a night in November last year.

Mr Wilcox received a sentence of nine months suspended for two years for grievous bodily harm plus 100 hours community service and was told to pay £500 compensation to the victim.

Electrical fire

A FIRE broke out on the ground floor of a property in Cowens Close, Crewkerne, on Monday.

One fire appliance from Crewkerne and two from Yeovil were mobilised to the incident just before noon where they extinguished the fire and ventilated the building.

An ambulance was requested for a man who was suffering from smoke inhalation and the fire crews administered oxygen therapy until the arrival of paramedics. The cause of the fire was deemed accidental due to an electrical fault.

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District cutbacks

SOUTH Somerset District Council has received its grant figures from Government for the 2011/12 financial year which involved a greater cut than had been already planned for.

South Somerset's Government grant will be reduced by 15.7 per cent, which translates to a 20.3 per cent reduction in real terms when taking into account inflationary pressures.

The council had recently found ways to meet this year's £2.5m budget gap but the announcement means the council will now need to find an additional £733.4k this year, and work on a further £2.6m budget gap next year.

South Somerset's current budget is £20.3m, which funds services for one of the largest district areas in the country.

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■ **CHRISTMAS TUNES:** Residents Mrs June Ruff Mr George Amey and Mrs Myrtle Shepherd being serenaded by the choir

Sing a song of Christmas

RESIDENTS of Muchelney House, Ilminster, were treated to a Christmas concert on Wednesday, December 8th by The Serenaders.

The local choir entertained them with a variety of Christmas carols and popular songs.

The Yarlington Housing Group residents joined in with favourites such as White Christmas and Silent Night, as well as some more contemporary tunes.

Scheme manager Shane Perkins said: "There are a number of

events held here over the Christmas period, but this is always one of the favourites.

"It is wonderful to see our residents coming together to celebrate in this way."

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Unique opportunity for autistic children

LILIAS Ahmeira, founder of Special Horses for Special Children based near Chard (featured in the November 26th edition of The weekend) is asking parents of young autistic children to take part in a workshop for donations only, as part of the initial set up of the charity.

A specialist from the Horse Boy Foundation in the USA will be coming in January to assist in setting up before the new venture starts charging.

They are proposing to do three camps for three to four hours on January 12th, 15th and 16th and are looking for three families on each day who have an autistic child of up to eight years of age to come with the family (siblings included) to work with the horses.

The day will consist of sensory work with the horses in the stables to start with, and may end up riding depending on confidence of the child.

Lilias is also looking for volunteers who would like to work with the stable, a knowledge of horses or special needs children, would be helpful but is not essential.

Call 01460 66990 for more details.

Business success story in Chard



■ **LAST TO FIRST:** Becky Curwood, Jo Rattenbury, Linda Croton, Abbie Bide and Ness Massey celebrating the new look Pure Beauty salon

PURE BEAUTY in Chard has a new home thanks to the hard work of the family and friends of Becky Curwood, who has been running the beauty therapy business for almost four years.

In just four weeks they transformed the period property at 26 Fore Street, uncovering the Victorian fireplaces and redecorating for their opening on Monday, December 13th.

The new premises is twice the size with four therapy rooms, a sunbed room and spray tanning room. There is a relaxing chill-out area where clients can unwind before a therapy or gather their thoughts before they go home.

Coincidentally their very first customer of the

day, Linda Croton of the Chard Ladies Evening Guild, was their first and last customer at the previous location. She said the new establishment was wonderful.

Mrs Curwood was really pleased with the move, having outgrown the salon they had lower down the road. She said the added bonus was their own parking spaces, which can be accessed opposite the Boden Street car park.

There are steps up to the front door but there is a ramp for disabled users and the downstairs sunbed room can be easily changed to a therapy room for anyone who cannot get to the other floors.

Working for a cleaner Christmas

SOUTH Somerset District Council's Streetscene team will swap stuffing for street cleaning and baubles for bin liners this Christmas day to make sure the district is kept spotless.

Seven street cleaners will patrol the area on Christmas morning to pick litter and sweep up from the seasonal festivities, whilst three staff will remain on call all day in case of emergency.

Councillor Tom Parsley, Environment and Property Portfolio Holder

explained: "We need to have everything covered, so in addition to the street cleaning team over the festive period, we have a team who stand on call to respond to the collection of stray dogs, broken glass or sharps and in case of an emergency such as the need for sandbag delivery or serious environmental health issue.

"I would also like to personally thank our staff who are giving up their Christmas day to make sure South Somerset is kept at a high

standard, they do such a fantastic job.

"Christmas Eve may be especially busy in our town centres this year as it falls on a Friday. I hope everyone can help us by doing their bit if they are out and about to use the bins and to take care.

"I wish everyone well this Christmas."

Christmas waste and recycling collection dates are available at www.recyclesomerset.info

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MP calls for a rethink in county spending cuts

DAVID Laws, MP for Yeovil Constituency, has called on Somerset County Council to review its proposed budgets cuts following the Coalition Government's announcement on future central funding for local authorities.

The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for English Councils, shows a smaller cut in finan-

cial support for Somerset in 2011/2012 than expected.

Somerset County Council has been insisting that deep cuts in local spending and public services are necessary, and has proposed cuts totalling £43million.

Mr Laws stated this figure was significantly more than the actual amount of central funding that Somerset will lose as the result of the Government's announcement.

He said: "Somerset has received one of the best settlements in the country, so it would appear that the county council were far too rash in setting out such excessive spending cuts. The council should have held off from making these decisions until we had a better idea from Government on the actual reductions in local government spending."

"In light of the Government's announcement, I

strongly urge the county council to re-think its plans.

"It would be absurd for the council to introduce some of the most draconian cuts to local services in the country, when other counties have fared less well in this financial settlement than us.

"This shows that decisions, such as the closing of the recycling centre in Crewkerne, should not be necessary."



■ **SIGNING TO THE LAST:** Members of Crewkerne Civic Society drummed up more signatures taking the total over 5,000.

Civic society mobilises to save recycling centre

WITH only days to go until the important county council meeting to decide the fate of Crewkerne's recycling centre, the Civic Society spent the weekend giving a last push to the petition, by lobbying users of the tip at the weekend and setting up a stand in Falkland Square on Tuesday.

The group has rented a coach to leave South Street car park on Wednesday, December 22nd, at 8.15am, in order to get as many people to protest at County Hall in Taunton as possible. Anyone wishing to be involved can call Martin Pakes on 01460 76266 or Geoffrey Harfield on 76540.

County Councillor John Dyke commented: "Last Friday's Waste Board meeting went well. It was attended by representatives of all four sites scheduled for closure. In the case of Crewkerne, by Neil Sturtivant, Angie Singleton and myself.

"We all spoke with feeling stating the concern and anger felt by residents of Crewkerne and surrounding villages, and how useful it was to have the support of both Oliver Letwin and David Laws.

"Members of the Waste Board seemed to understand our anxieties particularly about fly-tipping and the wrong signals that closure would send, resulting in more recyclable material going to landfill (with extra landfill tax costs). Members voted that Steve Read (managing director of Somerset Waste Partnership) should explore all alternatives to complete closure

By Marion Draper

of any site."

The manager of the recycling centre spoke out for the first time, having previously feared for his job. He said: "As the site manager at Crewkerne, I think the closing of this site is short-sighted and although cuts have to be made, why cut a public service? Why not look for making cuts in other areas, for example, housing benefit?"

"They put a lot of effort into getting people to recycle and spent £350,000 raising the ground to build the site. How will they justify throwing that money away? By giving them a little box to put everything in.

"We had 100,000 visits this year. The people of Crewkerne should have the right to keep their site as they earned it, recycling in all weathers, even people with no transport walk in.

"I also see disabled people coming in recycling. One guy in particular gets out of his car, gets his wheelchair out (I always ask do you want some help and he politely declines), and sorts everything on his own.

"Why should these people suffer?"

"To sum up, look elsewhere for your savings. I did mention closing for two days and reducing staff to two. This would save some money in an effort to prevent full closure."



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Mice take over the nativity

MANGER Mouse was the title of this year's Christ-

mas offering from the pupils of St Bartholomew's Church of England First School.

The traditional rendition of the Nativity had a few contemporary additions

including the three kings complaining to the innkeeper about travelling too far, following the star, without a sat nav.

The performance was accompanied by the school

choir and percussion group and as its title suggested, included a lot of mice in the cast. The soldiers in the market were very impressive and the dancing angels were charming.



■ TWINKLES TOES: The choir of angels dance for the audience



■ SQUEAK SQUEAK: The mice get busy in the stable

Photos by MARION DRAPER



■ BUY OUR WARES: The market sellers in Bethlehem



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■ CHECKING OUT CHRISTMAS: Dr What Cameron Adams, The Tardis Alex Cox and Dr When Erin Bond



■ A TOUCH OF CINDERS: Stephanie Evans, Courtney Barnett and Kiah Jennings in the panto scene



■ GOT THE HUMP: Bedouin Zoe George with camel train Robyn Johnston and Keiran Graves

When and what is Christmas?

AVISHAYES School year three and four Christmas production was based on the popular TV series Doctor Who.

Called simply "Who," in this story Doctor When, played by Erin Bond and Doctor What - Cameron Adams - went on a journey to see how Christmas was celebrated.

This ambitious musical production with several scene changes, took the audience to a Christmas store, a cracker factory, pantomime and a

By Marion Draper

turkey farm all showing how commercial Christmas had become. Then they travelled back in time to the Nativity to see the true meaning of Christmas.

It was a highly entertaining show with a lot of one-liners and jokes surrounding the names What and When and the children had obviously put a lot of work into it and were enjoying themselves.

The narrators: Oliver Klimpke; Jasmine Cobb; Chas O'Shaughnessy and Paris Chliopcki-Carslake were extremely well spoken as were the main characters who performed very well and even managed to pause for laughter when necessary.

There were a few moments when the scene changes caused a little unrest but considering the age of the children, the overall performance was very polished and a credit to everyone.



■ TIME TRAVELLERS: The chorus sing



■ TALKING TURKEY: Dr What at the turkey farm

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Non stop carols and good cheer

ILMINSTER'S first ever 24 hour carolathon was even more successful than had been hoped for. Organiser, Rotarian Linda Piggott-Vijeh, commented: "When the people of Ilminster and the surrounding areas are asked to dig deep into their pockets to help those struggling at this time of year they certainly come up trumps."

"When I came up with this mad idea to raise funds for Samaritans by holding a 24-hour carolathon, I had no idea that the response would be so overwhelming. I had set my self a mental target of around £1,000, and prayed for good weather and a lot of local interest. I was truly 'gob smacked' by the kindness of local people."

"Even in these uncertain times there seems so to be much warmth and generosity, it is truly heart warming. Our main sponsor, who provided a magnificent 102 bottles of mulled wine and 1,200 mince pies, was Waitrose of Crewkerne, which really gave us the edge in our fundraising efforts."

"With the singing group Serenade, who arrived with a donation of £55 they had raised before the event, and the £100 Caroline Cameron squeezed out of her local pub plus additional funds kindly raised by Alastair Wallace in the service immediately following the carolathon, the total is a fantastic £2,000 - absolutely fabulous."

"I seemed to be on the verge of tears a lot of the time, particularly, when apart from the stalwart hardy Rotarians, who helped me to keep going all night, many of those enjoying the festive spirit in our local hostelrys, dug

By Marion Draper

deep into their pockets. Even the owner of The Dolphin came down afterwards with a donation, saying 'I heard you'd been going to all the pubs, why didn't you come to us?'

"The Shrubbery's Stuart Shepherd also encouraged us to extend our collection area; led by Rotarians Claire Hebron and Caroline de Sancha, some mild arm-twisting took place."

It didn't take us long to realise, that after accomplished performances by members of Serenade, Jubilate, South Somerset Choral Society, members of the town band, and other local organised groups, such as the Brownies, who were fabulous that we were pretty useless without musical backing."

"Stepping into the breach for much of the night were Jane Edwards from Taunton, and John Allen, along with Rotarians Ed Wells and his lovely wife Helen, Derek Outram and President Tony Walker, in addition to Steve, who works at Yeovil hospital, and who arrived at 10.30pm, staying on well into the early hours to play the piano."

"Jane Morgan of Sweet Surprise, came up trumps when our electric failed us and she descended upon us like an angel from heaven, bearing fairy lights and candles, along with a welcome flask of hot home made soup."

"Most impressive were those individuals, many of whom who had come alone, in the early hours, to help keep us going. Deserving a special

mention was Alan Collins, a farmer from Yarcombe, and a member of Chard Baptist Church, who arrived at 4.30am and stayed for four hours, singing along with Noah and Gemma, from Ilminster, and Denise who had travelled all the way from Portsmouth. They, combined with the dulcet tones and enthusiastic voices of the Fry-Foleys, Liz Hartley and friends, and our local district councillors Carol Goodall, and Kim Turner, helping to sustain me throughout the night. At one stage, croaking away as a result of a chest infection, I thought the inimitable Deidre, our local undertaker, dressed to kill in red and singing her heart out, might have to carry me off! In all, 203 performers took part."

"This just goes to show what can be achieved when a community comes together. The number of youngsters who came up to say they wished there could be more events like this, has spurred me on to think of some other exciting things."

The determined team started singing in the Market House, Ilminster at 9.30am on Saturday, December 11th, and taking turns in groups of varying sizes, sang right through until Sunday morning. The carol quiz winner was Mrs Souster and the winner of the raffle hamper was Mrs Smart of Winstham."

Christmas is a particularly difficult time for people struggling with loneliness and depression. If you need help call 08457 90 90 90.



■ SINGING WITH GOOD CHEER: Stage one of the 24 carolathon in Ilminster



■ KEEPING JOLLY: Councillors Margaret Excell, Kim Turner, David Miller, the Mayor Richard Bearon and Caroline Cameron



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Mike's big walk for Big Issue

By Marion Draper

SCHOOL administrator Mike Wiles had an interesting time when he went on a moonlight sponsored walk through London recently.

Many people take part in sponsored events for charities but few choose to support the Big Issue Foundation, the charity that gives homeless people the opportunity to work their way out of their situation by selling the Big Issue magazine on the streets.

Mr Wiles lives in Crewkerne and works at Neroche Primary School in Broadway near Ilminster.

Previously he worked at Wadham school in Crewkerne as the bursar and is a long term supporter and volunteer at The David Hall in South Petherton he also acts as administrator for Folk South West.

He enjoys working in

the school environment and after a brief stint as a social worker, has a working knowledge of the variety of paths people take in life.

He said the Big Issue Foundation was a good cause and when the opportunity to do a 25 kilometre walk around London at night, he and his wife decided to do it together.

Unfortunately she was unfit when the day came and he went alone but met some interesting people along the way, many were vendors of the magazine.

He said: "I think it is a very important charity, some people have a very jaundiced view of the vendors but there are very many different reasons why people end up homeless, they are not all drug addicts and alcoholics, many have had to escape abuse, and the average life expectancy of



■ **MIKE Wiles who recently completed a 25 kilometre walk for charity**

someone living rough on our streets is only 45.

"The Big London Night Walk was the first charity

thing I have done for about 30 years and there were 400 people there.

"They started us in

groups and I walked from 10.50pm until 5.39am.

"There were stopping off points along the way such as the Foundling Museum, St Barnabas School and the Roundhouse in Camden.

"For a while I was walking with a guy who works with the vendors, he explained how they do a lot of signpost work, supporting them and pointing them in the right direction to move forward in their lives.

"We saw one or two people camping in doorways but they told me the numbers have dropped considerably in the last ten years, so they are making a difference.

"I used to live in Essex but had not actually gone to London that much, I knew bits of it.

"The one thing that really struck me was being in Camden at 3.20am on the Saturday morning and it was just like walking through Taunton in the middle of the day, it was so incredibly busy.

"I raised £190 thanks to family and friends, I didn't really advertise the fact I was doing it but I wouldn't mind doing it again, my only disappointment was not having a camera that could take night shots. The skyline was quite spectacular."



ONLY child David Carter now has a huge extended family as headteacher at Hinton St George C of E First School and a father of three.

Originally from Bristol, he trained as a teacher in Exeter and fell in love with the west country and was delighted when he got his first teaching post just outside Axminster where he lives.

David's training enabled him to teach up to the age of 11 but an astute interviewer detected his affinity with the younger children and offered him a post with key stage one which David enjoyed immensely.

He proceeded to teach in three schools in three different counties before achieving the headship at Hinton in 2007.

● **WHAT do you enjoy most about being a teacher?**

The ability to inspire others and make a difference.

Children are fantastic they are so diverse and individual and now being a headteacher I am making a difference to other teachers too.

● **WHAT do you like about Hinton St George?**

Hinton is an absolutely beautiful village and it's really nice to be in a community where the school gets a lot of support from the village.

From the governors to the parents and villagers in general, we really value the support for all our events. The Christmas fayre this year took over £1,300.

● **IS there a particular subject you like to teach?**

One of the reasons I wanted to become a primary school teacher was because of the range of subjects.

Part of the beauty of being able to inspire a child is that they could be the next writer or musician in the world.

● **YOU encourage music at the school, are you musical yourself?**

Personally I can't play a note, I gave up the recorder at seven and wish I had had the chance to learn later on.

I think it's wonderful to give a child the opportunity to express themselves musically.

Perhaps I will have another go when I retire.

● **WHAT do you do in your spare time?**

You may not think it to look at me but I am actually very sporty and play football for Hawkchurch reserves as a budding goalie.

● **WHAT would you want on your desert island?**

I'd like a speedboat to take me back home but if I was stuck there I would need an iPod to have some music and a collection of good books.

I adore children's picture books and my musical taste is varied, I like Indie music and guitar based bands.

Plan B is something which is getting a lot of use in my car at the moment.

● **WHO has inspired you in life?**

My Dad, he always has time for people and is always patient which is something I try to be throughout life, whether being taught or teaching.

I have also tried to glean good practise from a number of fantastic teachers I have been lucky enough to work with.

● **WHERE do you like to holiday?**

I did a lot of travelling as a child. My parents dragged me all over the world but with a family now I am really appreciating the bucket and spade holidays close to home.

People try to battle their way into Devon for a holiday so why battle our way out?

I have an autistic son who is really into trains so we travel to London so we can sit and watch the trains all day.

● **WHAT is your attitude to life?**

I tend not to do regrets and make the most of the moment.

I like to make school fun, it's one of the things I like to pass on.

People need to enjoy their lives by being inspired and making progress.

● **WHAT is the craziest thing you have ever done?**

I have done lots of crazy things but I suppose the most recent was when I dressed up a Spiderman and went up the climbing tower on sports day.

The guys on the ropes had trouble getting me down again.

Peter Parker never looked so good!

● **IF you won the lottery what would you buy?**

I'd like to buy my favourite football club Bristol Rovers and help them out with a few new players.

After helping out family and friends, I have always fancied a nice relaxing boat where I could sit back with a nice glass of cider, and maybe buy a record table and sign up David Derbyshire!

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Squeak success for CLOKS Christmas show

CHARD Local Kids Society for music and drama (CLOKS) had an overriding success with their Christmas performance "Squeak, the Story of Silent Night", leading to a standing ovation at the

By Marion Draper

Guildhall.

Having already performed in the church at Combe St Nicholas, the group did their one night show in front of the mayor of Chard councillor Jill

Shortland, her special guests and the general public to raise money for the Children's Hospice South West, Little Bridge House.

The mayor introduced

the performance and explained that the youngsters had worked very hard on their performance because they had wanted to do something for charity.

The proceeds from the night would go directly to her charities, St Margaret's

Hospice and Children's Hospice South West, with all the proceeds from the raffle going directly to CHSW in the name of CLOKS so the children could have some special Christmas treats.

Takings were approximately £450 to the mayoral fund with more to come in from promised donations, and £200 went directly to Little Bridge House for Christmas treats from the raffle, donations at the door and topped up by the councillors Garry and Jill Shortland.

Squeak was a delightful musical tale about a group of church mice who were starving and ate the bellows from the organ.

The baddies of the tale were two inspectors, threatening to close the church under health and safety grounds, while the Christmas nativity play was being rehearsed and one turning out to be a candlestick thief.

An absent minded composer was trying to come up with a new song and was inspired while sleeping in the church to write Silent Night, sung beautifully by Becky Orchard.

The performance was full of fun and lively enter-



■ IT'S GREAT TO BE A MOUSE: The chorus of mice from Squeak



■ I'M NOT CLEANING THOSE: Cleaning ladies Zoe Bond, Fran Merrick-Read, Nina Johnson and Amy Emery with vicar Jonathan Farey

tainment, with good tunes and choreography as well as humour, the perfect family show.

The mayor commented: "It was a fantastic evening, everyone enjoyed it and

thanks to everyone who helped, councillors, friends but especially CLOKS.

"They are really wonderful and it was only a shame that the hall was not full

for them, perhaps if we keep on doing these things and telling people about them, the public will realise just how incredible they are and support them a bit more."



■ SILENT NIGHT: Becky Orchard sings clear and true

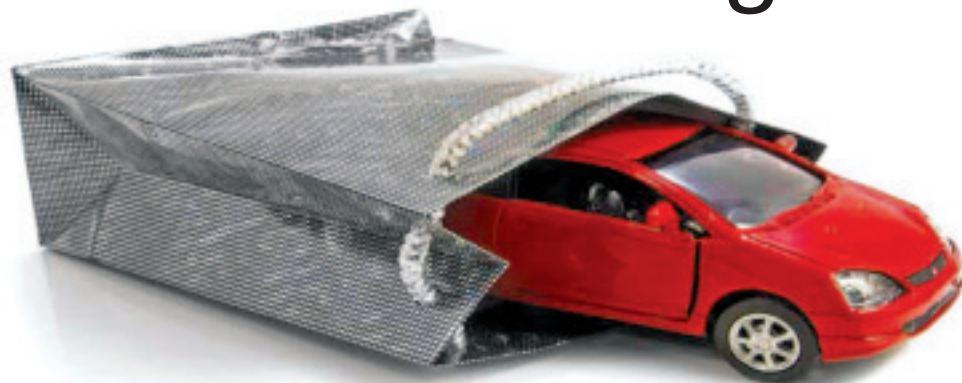


■ HIGHLY ENTERTAINED: The mayoral party

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OFFICIAL OPENING: Councillor Ian Martin (chairman of South Somerset District Council) parish council vice chairman Nigel England, Carole Boyde (alias Lynda Snell from the Archers) and volunteer co-ordinator David Froome

THE Seavington Village Store & Café was officially opened on December 4th by Carole Boyd who plays the character Lynda Snell in the

long running BBC series "The Archers".

Our impressive new, environmentally friendly building is conveniently sited next to the village hall, playing

field and children's playground.

We offer a wide range of goods to meet all your daily needs, with as much as possible many sourced locally. These include:

- Award-winning locally produced meat from Bonners of Ilminster and Bringing Home the Bacon in Donyatt
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- Cider brandy, cider and Perry from Burrow Hill
- Beer from North Curry Brewery

The store is open six days a week. Hours are 8:30 to 6:00 Monday to Friday and 9:00 to 3:00 on Saturday.

The café is open from 9:00 until 5:00 pm and serves quality coffees, hot

chocolates, specialist teas, cakes, snacks and light meals.

The Store and Café are community owned and are run by a team of local volunteers. Once the loans needed to start the venture are repaid, all surplus funds will be

devoted to other village projects.

We would like to extend a big thank-you to all our suppliers for their help and continuing support over the many months of planning and operations.



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The story of Christmas night



■ WATCHING THEIR SHEEP: Enter the shepherds

MRS HARRIS' class at Greenfylde Church of England first School preformed a short nativity play entitled "On Christmas Night" in front of family and friends in the school hall.

For a reception class the children did extremely well, singing all their songs on their own and unaccompanied.

Headteacher John Jeffery congratulated the children and his staff and commented that teaching a reception class was like holding 30 pieces of cork underwater at the same time.

There was a retiring collection for Shelter and Mr Jeffery said that including their collection the Christmas tree festival, they had already topped over £150 which would go to help the homeless.



■ IN GOOD VOICE: The choir of angels



■ TWINKLE TWINKLE: A row of little stars



■ WATCHING OVER THE BABY: Joseph and Mary



■ WORD PERFECT: Narrators and animals

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■ **HIGHLIGHTING THE NEEDY:** Tim Spilsbury with a shelter box and tree representing the fundraising work of the Rotary Club of Crewkerne

Decorated trees for funds

By Marion Draper

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S Church in Crewkerne was filled with extra Christmas cheer for its very first Christmas tree festival, which continues until Monday, December 20th.

Community groups, clubs and charities from around the town have decorated trees in a variety of ways to illustrate the many things going on in Crewkerne - astronomy, bowls, drama, football, the USA and various churches.

The schools, hospital, Rotary and 41 Club also joined in. The trees are grouped in various areas of the beautiful Grade 1 listed church, rated among the 100 most lovely Parish churches in the country, and visitors are invited to vote for their favourite tree.

The church will be open from 9.30am to 6pm on Saturday, and 9-30am to 4 pm on Friday and Monday. Light refreshments will be available. On Sunday the church will be open for services as usual, including the Carol Service at 6pm, and people can also visit the trees from 11.30am - 3pm.

Donations are invited which will be split between the Help for Heroes charity and the Church Roof Fund.



■ **MY FAVOURITE:** Four-year-old Jai loved the colours of the St Margaret's Hospice tree

CHILDREN at Hinton St George Church of England Primary School had great fun being Vikings for the day.

Teacher Maggie McNulty who was recently chosen as a finalist for the Primary Language Teacher Award 2010 regularly takes her classes on epic voyages to other lands.

The pupils dressed up and particularly enjoyed a mock battle with their Viking helmets, shields and swords.

They had made rune tablets to spell their names and were also experiencing the types of weaving used at that time. For lunch they ate as close to Viking style as they could but left out the ale.

■ **WILD BUNCH:** Mrs McNulty's class at Hinton St George Primary School



Here come the Vikings



... and the CATS!

MEMBERS of Chard Amateur Theatre Society (CATS) were out and about in Chard and Ilminster collecting donations and promoting their pantomime Red Riding Hood, which will be entered for the Cinderella Trophy.

The members were standing outside Co-operative in Chard, while others dressed in Father Christmas suits were seen cycling around Ilminster.

Their performance will not be until the end of January with evening shows on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 27th, 28th and 29th at 7.30pm and a Saturday matinee at 3pm. Tickets will be on sale at Barrons, Holyrood Street, in January.

□ **COLLECTING FOR PANTO TIME:** Lauren Hole, Angie Davies, Laura Hawes and Sophie Jarvis



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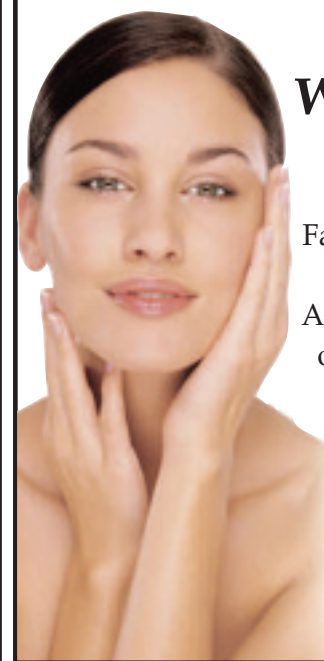
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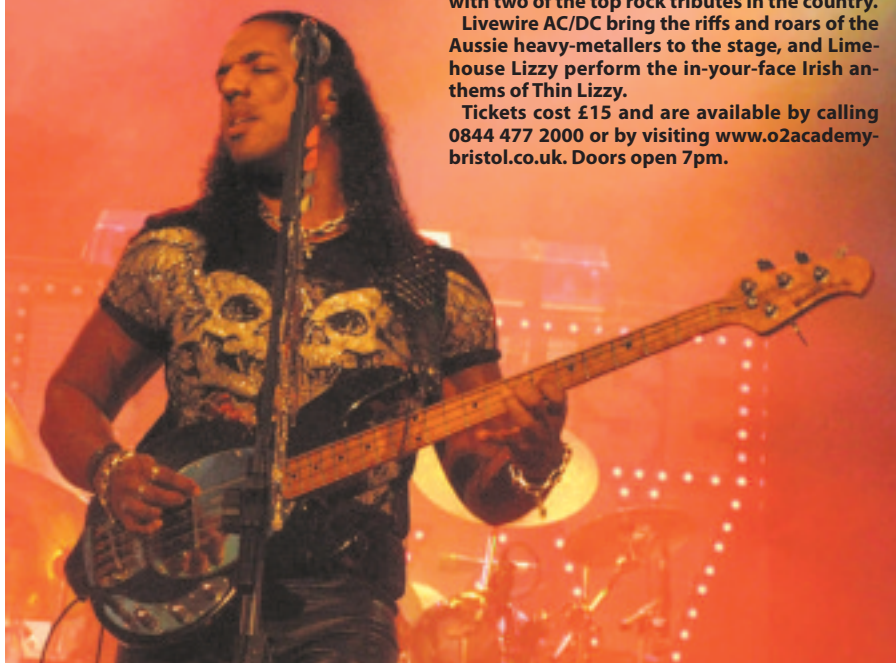
arts & entertainment

Going Out Gigs

The Boys Are Back In Town

The 'For Those About To Rock' tour comes to Bristol's O2 Academy on Saturday, December 18th with two of the top rock tributes in the country. Livewire AC/DC bring the riffs and roars of the Aussie heavy-metallers to the stage, and Limehouse Lizzy perform the in-your-face Irish anthems of Thin Lizzy.

Tickets cost £15 and are available by calling 0844 477 2000 or by visiting www.o2academy-bristol.co.uk. Doors open 7pm.



Going Out Gigs

The David Hall welcomes the New Year with fantastic line up

THE David Hall in South Petherton welcome in the new year with a fantastic line up of jazz, folk, theatre and film.

THE first offering of the month is the fantastic film 'Made In Dagenham' (cert 15), presented by Petherton Picture Show on Friday, January 7th.

Based on the true story of the Ford car factory sewing machinists who, in 1968, after being reclassified as "unskilled", decide that enough is enough and embark on a strike that brings them into conflict with their corporate paymasters, the local community and, eventually, the Government itself. Starring Sally Hawkins, Rosamund Pike and Bob Hoskins.

Book early to avoid disappointment! Tickets cost £5 for PPS members

ON Friday, January 14th The Sarah Gillespie Trio, featuring Gilad Atzmon, perform from 8pm.

Critically-acclaimed Anglo-American singer-songwriter Sarah Gillespie mixes jazz, blues and urban folk, accompanied by maverick producer and jazz composer, Gilad Atzmon – who, last September, launched the Hall's partnership with Sherborne Jazz.

Touring with her new album 'In the Current Climate', Gillespie has played extensively across the UK and Europe in festivals, arts centres, theatres and clubs, building up a loyal fan base enchanted by her high-octane performances of original songs, her witty onstage banter and the band's formidable musicianship.

Tickets cost £12 (full) or £11 (concessions)

FAT Content present 'The Man I Cure' on Thursday, January 20th at 8pm.

The Man I Cure tells the story of two suppressed nurses who fall dependent upon their male captive. Based on a Russian folk tale, this dark, comedic love story brings its audience into the strange institution of Whitesands Sanatorium, where the medicine is full fat milk and music echoing hauntingly down the corridors.

The show uses surreal comedy and beautiful song and dance routines which bring back memories of the Andrews Sisters, Glen Miller and The Chordettes.

Tickets cost £11 (full) and £10 (concessions).

THE second film of the month is 'Another Year' (cert 12A) starring Jim Broadbent.

Another Year is an outstanding film, talked of as



Sarah Gillespie | January 14th

being one of the very best of Mike Leigh's career, and is a piercing but sympathetic study of lonely people in the autumn of their lives.

Sure to attract a big audience so again, early booking advised! Tickets cost £5 for PPS members.

CONTINUING the Hall's strong folk heritage, the incredible Miranda Sykes returns on Saturday, January 22nd at 8pm.

Miranda has been to Petherton's famous venue many times, both under her own name and accompanying other David Hall favourites. She is best known as the third member of Show of Hands. This time, Miranda is accompanied by Rex Preston – a highly talented mandolin player and member of the Scoville Units.

Petherton Arts Trust's Pete Wheeler says: Not just a brilliant double base player, Miranda also has a wonderful voice, which she uses to great benefit as her performances cover many musical genres including folk, jazz and rock/pop. A real pleasure to have her back with us again! It is also a delight to welcome Rex Preston who is based in Bath and, in a short space of time, has secured a reputation as a truly outstanding mandolin player."

Tickets cost £13 (full) or £11 (concessions).

FOLLOWING the success of previous Ceilidhs, Jeroka and The David Hall join forces for a special 'Family Ceilidh' night, which they hope will be the first of many, on Saturday, January 29th from 7pm.

All ages are welcome, and no experience is necessary.

Tickets cost £8 (full), £7 (concs, including under 16s) or £25 for families (2 adults and 2 children), and includes a ploughman's supper.

THE final event of the January is The David Hall's monthly performance night.

The David Hall hands over its professional stage – and outstanding acoustics – to budding artists of all genres. Aspiring performers should book a space in advance on 01460 240 340.

Petherton Arts Trust is trying this new evening as a way of encouraging more local performers of all genres to come and perform on a professional stage and to attract more people in the audience. It's a great evening full of extraordinary skill, talent and variety. All types of performance welcome – The David Hall has had music, comedy, poetry, dance... All have the opportunity to deliver for 10 – 15 minutes with full PA and lighting system.

Tickets cost £1 for performers or £2 for audience.

To book tickets for any of these events visit the website www.thedavidhall.org.uk, or call 01460 240 340. They can also be purchased at N&D News, St James Street, South Petherton.



Miranda Sykes | January 22nd

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ILMINSTER arts centre AT THE MEETING HOUSE

THE KEYS OF HEAVEN Book signing in the Main Hall
Saturday 18th December
10.30am - 12noon.

Local author David Sutcliffe, of Isle Abbots near Ilminster will be signing copies of his new book - the first biography of Revd Charles Marson, erstwhile vicar of Hambridge. Marson is well-known in folk circles as the partner of Cecil Sharp in the collection of Somerset folk songs in the early 1900s. Together they kick-started the English Folk Revival.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION in the Main Gallery
Monday 29th November - Thursday 23rd December
Open Daily (except Sunday). Free entry.

A varied and irresistible collection by local artists and makers and a great opportunity to buy that unique present in time for Christmas. Several artists have exhibited previously but there will also be first appearances of ceramics by Lucy Brown, textiles by Myumi and small sculptures by Jo Luckstead.

TRUTH in the Cafe
Monday 29th November - Thursday 23rd December
(Continues Tuesday 4th-15th January 2011)

Artist Andrea Rowbotham's current work reflects and responds to a solitary week walking and climbing in Wales. Her work is abstract and represents a visual paradox of landscape and body.

Booking details: 01460 54973
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info@themeetinghouse.org.uk
East Street, Ilminster, Somerset. TA19 0AN.
Open Mon-Fri 9.30-4.30, Sat 10.00-2.30.

Christmas Farmers Market this Saturday

THE Christmas Crewkerne Farmers Market is this coming Saturday (December 18th) in Falkland Square, Crewkerne from 9am to 1pm. Long Odds & Short Straws will be providing Christmas carols and music to get us in the mood, whilst collecting for the Air Ambulance. There will be a free draw with two chances to win a £10 voucher to spend at Crewkerne Farmers Market.

The producers will have their stalls laden with tasty Christmas fayre. Barley Sugar Bakehouse promises luxury moist Christmas Puddings, hand wrapped then steamed in cloth and left to mature whilst Simply Cooking will have her delicious Christmas cakes. Leaker's will have a Cranberry & Yoghurt Festive Loaf as well as their Bah Humbug Christmas cookies.

Deers Leap Chillies will be launching some new spicy products; Hot Pickled Jalapeno Chilli Peppers and Aubergine Brinjal Pickle - guaranteed to perk up leftover Christmas Turkey. West Country Buffalo will have Cranberry & Orange Sausages and there will be Stockland Venison and the usual tasty selection of lamb, beef and pork. Try something smokey from Bridfish or the delicious and creamy Mere Fish trout pate.

Tinkers Bubble will have organic vegetables, including cabbage, carrots and of course Brussel sprouts, full of flavour to complement your Christmas dinner. There will be a wide range of cheeses from Wootton sheep and Woollery goat to the more traditional range of cheddars from Greens.

The market offers a host of gift ideas with presentation ale packs from Quantock Brewery, locally made Dorset cider and North Perrott apple juice plus beautifully presented and exotically named Somerset Soaps. Raindrop Flowers will be selling floral displays and Christmas wreaths to brighten up your front door whilst the Inner Wheel will be raising funds with their colourful table decorations.

Visit the website www.somersetfarmersmarkets.co.uk for market dates across Somerset and details of all the producers or come along to Crewkerne farmers market on Saturday and pick up a leaflet.

Forthcoming Events in Chard Guildhall

EVERY Sunday 10:30 am
FOREFRONT COMMUNITY CHURCH
Church Service - All welcome
12th December 6.30pm Carols by Candle light
19th December 10.30am Christingle
Saturday 25th 10.30am Christmas Day Celebration

Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 29th December
10.30am, 5.30pm and 7.30pm
SLIMMING WORLD
Lose weight the extra easy way. Come along and find out how.

Tuesday 21st December and 5th January 5.15 pm and 8.15 pm
SOMERSET RELATE

Wednesday 22nd December 10:30 am to 12:30 noon
MEMORY CAFE
Friendly and informal gathering for information, support and Social contact for people affected by dementia

Thursday 23rd December 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
ANTIQUES FAIR
Books, china, jewellery & much more
Admission free, refreshments and lunches available
For further information contact 01460 239 567

Every Thursday (Except 30th December)
7:30 pm to 8:30 pm
ZUMBA FITNESS
Exciting latin moves.
A fun based fitness party workout
For information call 07738014409 or email
zumbasom@hotmail.com

Saturday 8th January 2011
10.00 am - 11.00 am
COUNCILLOR'S SURGERY

Saturday 18th December 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
CRAFT AND FOOD FAIR MONTHLY MARKET
Refreshments available. Admission Free
For information please call 01460 239 567

THURSDAYS 8:00 am to 2:00 pm and
SATURDAYS 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
CAFÉ OPEN

Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Saturdays 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
CHARD TOWN COUNCIL RECEPTION

We have many other events taking place.
For further details please contact
Chard Town Council, The Guildhall, Chard
Tel: 01460 239 567
WWW.CHARD.GOV.UK

Food with Richard Coles

IT might be with surprise that you learn this week's instalment of **Food** is more political than gastronomical, but I make no apologies for the fact. For in reality, behind every organic carrot, every mid-range sausage, every 'value' ready meal and even every Turkey Twizzler (if such things are even still made) lies political decision and ramification which can be traced back either to our Parliament, or to the EU.

Let me first establish the ground rules of my monologue. The purpose of this prose is not to openly set my self in either support or opposition to the influence of the EU on British food policy. After all, my editor permits me just 400 words, which would certainly be far too few to do justice

to the subject. This is nothing more than a jubilant celebration of one law being changed in the name of common sense of empowerment to the consumer.

Up until this month, the food buying public has been subject to what I would personally describe as a gross abuse of trust under a perfectly legal piece of food labelling legislation. Here's the situation in a nutshell: UK Food manufactures have been able to import meat and poultry from abroad to use in products produced in this country and then label the final product as "Made in England".

To be fair, these products are made in England. The deception is not so great as to result in down right lying. But it can

be reasonably argued that the technically correct statement is often used in an emotive way to tug the strings of the heart that produce pride in dear old Blighty.

Let me give you an example. A food producer may import cheap beef from a country where standards of welfare are lower, and process the meat into a steak and kidney pie. Because it was processed in this country, under the old legislation it could be legally labelled as 'Made in England' - and how often would this be screamed at you from the backdrop of a Union Jack with a heartwarming picture of the Great British countryside in the background, cows grazing happily. Technically correct; ethically questionable. The graphic design would try to

email: rgcoles@me.com

say much more than the words alone would legally permit.

But this week we celebrate a victory for common sense and openness. After much lobbying by the NFU, the European Parliament has agreed that the labelling should no longer state the country of processing but instead the country where the animal was reared. Under this rule, if you see an evocative 'Made in Great Britain' logo you can be confident that the meat was produced here. More campaigning for clearer and more transparent food labelling is required, but this is one Christmas present that the NFU and consumers and rejoice in. More certainly a victory of common sense.

Going Out Film This week's new releases

IN her first starring role, pop icon Christina Aguilera stars in *Burlesque*^{12A} as Ali, a small town girl who comes to L.A and finds her place in a struggling burlesque club run by former dancer Tess (played by Cher).

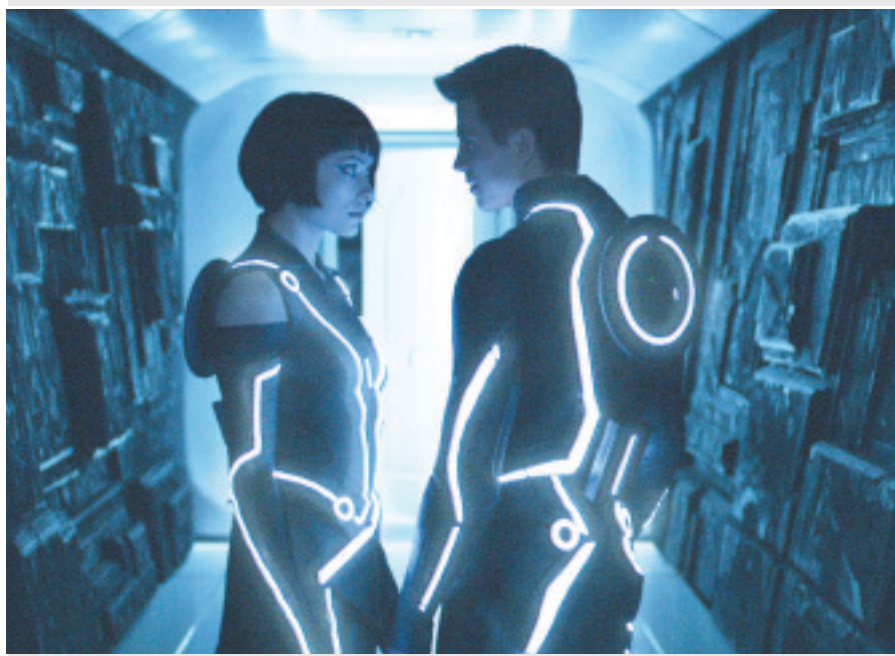
The club struggles and it's survival is threatened, with a rich businessman looking to buy the venue.

But as the club hits rock bottom, Ali becomes the club's main attraction thanks to her incredible voice...

TRON LEGACY^{PG} is the follow-up to ground breaking 80s classic Tron.

Sam Flynn, the tech-savvy 27-year-old son of Kevin Flynn, looks into his father's disappearance and finds himself pulled into the same world of fierce programs and gladiatorial games where his father has been living for 20 years. Along with Kevin's loyal confidant, father and son embark on a life-and-death journey across a visually-stunning cyber universe that has become far more advanced and exceedingly dangerous.

In 3D (where available) this is a visually stunning sequel to the Disney classic.



CINEMA LISTINGS

Friday, December 17th - Thursday, December 23rd

ALL LISTINGS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

TAUNTON ODEON

Heron Gate, Riverside
Tel: 0871 22 44 007

www.odeon.co.uk

The Chronicles of Narnia:

The Voyage Of The Dawn

Treader in 3D^{PG}

Daily: 13.30, 16.15, 18.00, 19.30, 20.30

Plus Fri, Sun-Thu: 10.45

Tron: Legacy in 3D^{PG}

Daily: 11.15, 12.15, 14.15, 15.15, 18.15, 21.15

Plus Sat-Thu: 9.30

Plus Sat, Sun, Tue-Thu: 17.15

Animals United in 2D^U

Daily: 12.45, 15.30

Plus Sat-Thu: 10.00

Burlesque^{12A}

Daily: 12.30, 15.00, 20.45

Plus Fri, Sat, Mon-Thu: 17.45

Harry Potter and The Deathly

Hallows part 1^{12A}

Daily: 13.15, 16.30, 19.45

Meet The Parents: Little

Fockers^{12A}

Wed & Thu: 10.30, 11.45,

12.45, 14.30, 15.30, 17.00,

18.00, 20.00, 21.00

Megamind in 3D^{PG}

Fri-Tue: 13.00, 15.45

Plus Sat-Tue: 10.15

Wed & Thu: 9.45, 12.00, 14.45

Nativity^U

Sat-Thu: 11.00

The Santa Clause 3^U

Sat: 10.45

The Tourist^{12A}

Fri-Tue: 14.30, 16.45, 19.15,

21.30, Plus Sun: 11.45

Wed & Thu: 18.30, 21.30

Unstoppable^{12A}

Fri-Tue: 17.35, 20.00

YEOVIL CINEWORLD

Yeo Leisure Park, Old Station Rd
Tel: 0871 200 2000

www.cineworld.co.uk

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voy-

age Of The Dawn Treader in 3D^{PG}

Daily: 12.30, 15.15, 18.00, 20.50

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voy-

age Of The Dawn Treader in 2D^{PG}

Daily: 14.15, 17.00

Plus Sat-Tue: 11.30

The Tourist^{12A}

Daily: 12.50, 15.30, 17.50, 20.15

Harry Potter and The Deathly Hal-

lows part 1^{12A}

Daily: 14.25, 17.40, 20.40

Plus Sat-Thu: 11.00

Megamind in 3D^{PG}

Daily: 13.00, 15.20, 17.40

Plus Fri, Sat, Mon-Thu: 20.00

Megamind in 2D^{PG}

Fri-Tue: 14.00, 16.20, 18.40

Plus Sat-Tue: 11.40

Wed & Thu: 11.40

Unstoppable^{12A} Daily: 19.45

Monsters^{12A} Daily: 19.00, 21.10

Meet The Parents: Little Fockers^{12A}

Wed & Thu: 11.00, 13.20, 15.40,

18.00, 19.00, 20.20, 21.20

The Girl Who Kicked The Hornet's

Nest¹⁵ Daily: 20.50

Tron: Legacy in 3D^{PG}

Daily: 14.30, 17.30, 18.30, 20.30,

21.30, Plus Sat-Thu: 11.30

Simply Red Farewell - Broadcast

live from London's O2 Arena

Sun: 20.00

Animals United in 3D^U

Daily: 13.40

Burlesque^{12A}

Daily: 14.40, 17.20, 20.00

Plus Sat-Thu: 12.00

Fred: The Movie^{12A}

Daily: 14.40, 16.40

Plus Sat-Thu: 12.20

Dorothy The Dinosaur's Rockin'

Christmas^U

Sat-Thu: 10.00

Despicable Me in 2D^U

Sat-Mon, Wed: 10.40

Toy Story 3 in 2D^U

Sat-Thu: 10.20

Shrek Forever After in 2D^U

Sat-Thu: 10.00

A Christmas Carol in 3D - Sky 3D

Kids Club Exclusive^{PG}

Tue & Thu: 11.00

A Christmas Carol in 2D^{PG}

Sat-Thu: 10.10

Animals United in 2D^U

Daily: 16.00, Plus Sat-Thu: 11.20

Up in 3D - Sky 3D Kids Club Exclusive^U

Tue & Thu: 11.00

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Lyme Regis

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www.scottcinemas.co.uk

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voy-

age Of The Dawn Treader^{PG}

Daily: 16.55, 19.30

Daily: 16.55, 19.30

Plus Sat, Mon-Thu: 14.15

weekenderlife

weekenderlife DIARY DATES

FRIDAY DECEMBER 17TH

MERRIOTT: Harlequin Carnival Club will be holding its annual Christmas Prize Bingo at the Village Hall. Doors open at 7pm, eyes down 7.45pm. A raffle will be held on the evening. Main bingo prizes of full chicken dinners. Refreshments will be available. Telephone 01460 52432 for more details.

MERRIOTT: 'Carols and Classics' presented by students of the London Royal Academy of Music at All Saints Church, Church Street open 7pm, concert from 7.30pm. Tickets £5, telephone 01460 76360 or 07870 404 631 for more details or tickets.

CREWKERNE: Midwinter Concert with Reg Meurross, Phil Beer, Jackie Oates and Bethany Porter at 7.30pm in the Town Hall. Tickets £12 (full), £10 (seniors and students) and £5 (under 14), available on the door.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 18TH

CREWKERNE: Table Top Sale at Henhayes Centre from 9am - 1pm (sellers 8.30am). £4 per table. Seasonal refreshments. Telephone 01460 271541 or 74340 for more details.

CREWKERNE: Come sing Carols in Falkland Square from 10am - 11am.

ILMINSTER: Ilminster Patient Participation Group will be holding a Christmas Coffee Morning at the Summervale Medical Centre, Wharf Land from 10.30am until noon.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 19TH

CREWKERNE: Carol Service at the Unitarian Chapel, Hermitage Street from 11am. Telephone 01460 74929 for more details.

CREWKERNE: Carol Service at Crewkerne Methodist Church from 6.30pm

FRIDAY DECEMBER 24TH

CREWKERNE: Carol Lit Crib Service from 6.30pm at Crewkerne Methodist Church. Christmas Communion from 9.30pm at Crewkerne Methodist Church.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 25TH

CREWKERNE: Christmas Celebration at Crewkerne Methodist Church from 10.30am.

SATURDAY JANUARY 22ND 2011

CHARD: Peace Vigil at Holyrood Street, from 11am - 12noon.

TUESDAY JANUARY 25TH 2011

ILMINSTER: South Somerset Peace Group public meeting with a talk from Faysal Mikdadi, author and educational consultant, who will talk about Middle Eastern affairs and Palestinian perspectives.

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marie.austin@pemedial.co.uk

tives. The meeting will be held in the Minster Rooms, Ilminster at 7.30pm. All welcome, entry £3 including tea/coffee.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 26TH 2011

TATWORTH: Craft Workshop 'Wonder Scarf' at Tatworth Memorial Hall from 1pm - 5pm. Organised by Tatworth and Forton RAG Active Living. Telephone 01460 220339 or 01460 220198 for more details.

FRIDAY JANUARY 28TH 2011

TATWORTH: Film: 'Tamara Drewe' at Tatworth Memorial Hall, organised by T&F Movies. Doors open 7.30pm with doors opening at 8pm. Telephone 01404 220198 for more details.

Going Out Book launch

The Keys of Heaven

First Biography of Somerset Folk Figure Rev Charles Marson to be launched this weekend

LOCAL author David Sutcliffe, of Isle Abbots village near Ilminster, has just produced the first biography of Reverend Charles Marson, erstwhile vicar of Hambridge. Marson is well-known in folk circles as the partner of Cecil Sharp in the collection of Somerset folk songs in the early 1900s. Together, they kick-started the English Folk Revival.

Over 400 of Marson's letters have recently been discovered in Minehead and from them Sutcliffe has written a fascinating account of his life. He was an early socialist, working in the slums of Whitechapel just before the Ripper murders. Sacked from several curacies because of his politics, he spent three years in Australia where he spoke up for aboriginal rights. He was a friend of Edith Nesbit before she wrote 'The Railway Children' and authored many books himself. He was an original and funny man, and the book is full of his stories and drawings. He was not your average vicar.

Details about the book are available on: www.charles-marson.co.uk

The book, 'The Keys of Heaven' will be launched at Ilminster Arts Centre on Saturday, December 18th from 10.30am to 12noon. Author David Sutcliffe will be on hand to sign copies of the book, admission is free.



Author David Sutcliffe



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listings form

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Date.....
Time.....
Venue.....
Town Village.....
Organised by.....Tel No.....

Send your Diary Dates listings to: Lyme Media and Events, Unit 3, St Michael's Business Centre, LYME REGIS, Dorset DT7 3DB. fax: 01297 444981, or e-mail: rob@pemedial.co.uk

PLEASE NOTE: This is a free service and whilst we endeavour to include all entries, we cannot guarantee all listings submitted will be published. Please use one form per event you wish to submit.

WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE DIARY DATES LISTINGS OVER THE PHONE
Deadline for postal / e-mail entries is Wednesday, 12noon

This week's DVDs

INCEPTION

Leonardo DiCaprio leads an all-star cast in this mind-bending thriller from 'The Dark Knight' director Christopher Nolan. Packed with pulse-pounding action scenes and incredible special effects this is the stuff dreams are made of!

NATIVITY!

When not preparing for the school nativity show, straight-laced teacher Paul (Martin Freeman - "The Office") tells everyone that a Hollywood blockbuster is coming to town. The only problem is that it isn't! How will everyone's Christmas wishes come true? A seasonal comedy for the whole family!

SHREK 4: FOREVER AFTER – THE FINAL CHAPTER

The final chapter in DreamWorks's CG-animated comedy series follows Shrek on a quest to break a

curse that's thrown him into an alternate world where he never existed, leaving Puss a seriously fat cat and Fiona a princess warrior. Can he and his friends reverse the curse and live happily ever after?

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON

With an all-star voice cast that includes Gerard Butler and Jonah Hill, the latest home entertainment release from DreamWorks is an hilarious animated tale following the adventures of a teenage Viking who befriends a wounded dragon with fiery breath that is guaranteed to warm your heart!

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

From Walt Disney studios and Academy Award-winning director Robert Zemeckis comes this enchanting CG-animated take on the classic Charles Dickens tale. Starring the voice talents of Jim Carrey as Ebenezer Scrooge, it's time to embrace the spirit of Christmas Yet to Come and order your copy now!

This week's CDs

THE TRASHMEN *Surfin' Bird*

Not an album but X Factor's biggest rival for the much coveted Christmas number one spot. Trying to grapple the talent show's stranglehold on the Christmas charts an online campaign has been launched to see this sixties hit make an attack on the charts. Hadn't you heard?

JLS *Outta This World*

X Factor boy band will be out to dominate the album charts though with their brilliant second album, *Outta This World*. The fabulous foursome prove the real deal with acoustic ballads and racy, up-tempo dance-floor fillers, including the number one single from last summer, "The Club is Alive".

WESTLIFE *Gravity*

Westlife return with their eleventh studio album,

Gravity. The Irish four-piece have recruited Grammy award-winning producer John Shanks to oversee the album and the results are astonishing. The band's mix of uplifting pop and emotional ballads has never sounded more impressive.

RIHANNA *Loud*

Loud is the incredible fifth studio album from Rihanna, featuring the UK and worldwide number one single, "Only Girl (In the World)". Described by the Barbadian singer as "the perfect Rihanna album", this one looks set to be the biggest hit of her already spectacular career.

ANDRE RIEU *Moonlight Serenade*

Moonlight Serenade is the magical new album from Dutch violinist Andre Rieu and his spellbinding Johann Strauss Orchestra. Waltz away for a magical time with the most uplifting classics and witness Rieu's perfect showmanship during a breathtaking Australian concert.

NME Awards Tour tickets on sale now

Crystal Castles, The Vaccines, Everything Everything and Magnetic Man for O2 Academy show

TICKETS for the popular Shockwaves NME Awards Tour 2011 are on sale now, and the tour heads to Bristol's O2 Academy in February.

The line-up is, as now expected from the NME tours, impressive and varied, with hardcore band-of-the-moment **The Vaccines** opening, Art-popsters **Everything Everything** second on the bill, dub-step mainstream crossovers **Magnetic Man**, and headlin-

ers **Crystal Castles**.

Tickets for the NME Awards Tour 2011 cost £16.59. The Tour comes to the O2 Academy on Friday, February 11th - book your tickets now to avoid missing out on this sure-fire sell out.

For tickets or more details visit www.o2academy-bristol.co.uk or call 0844 477 2000.



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Creamy Roasted Vegetable & Nut Crumble, served with new potatoes and a selection of fresh seasonal vegetables

HOMEMADE DESSERTS
Christmas Pudding, served with Brandy Cream or Clotted Cream
Apple & Mincemeat Tart, served with Custard or Clotted Cream
Chocolate Caramel Shortbread, served with clotted cream

SET 4 COURSE LUNCH OR DINNER £18.95

The Minster Church of St Mary Ilminster

Sunday 19th December - 6pm
Town Service of Carols by Candlelight.
Refreshments afterwards

Christmas Eve - 5.30pm
Nativity Play
Children free to dress up as anyone but Mary and Joseph

Christmas Eve - 11.30pm
Midnight Communion

Christmas Day - 10.30am
All-Age Worship
(an informal service of about 45 minutes)

weekenderlife

Going Out Gigs



Take me to Yeovil!

TOP comedian and Mock The Week regular Andy Parsons will be bringing his 2011 tour to Yeovil in February.

The show, 'Gruntled', will see the dry-wit and laugh-out-loud humour Andy is so famed for on Mock The Week.

Andy Parsons is at Yeovil's Octagon Theatre on Friday, February 18th, from 7.30pm. Tickets cost £16 (Footlights £13.50). Book your tickets quickly for this certain sell-out.

For more details or bookings visit www.octagone-theatre.co.uk or call 01935 422884.

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Crewkerne Farmers Market

Falkland Square

9am-1pm

The 3rd Saturday of the month

The next date:

18th December

Christmas Market

For more information call

01373 814646 or visit

www.somersetfarmersmarkets.co.uk



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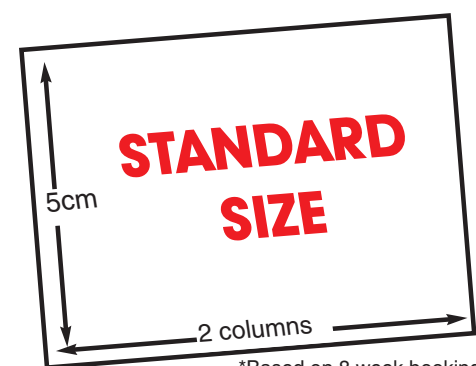
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Ampera's sub-£30k price brings e-rev into the mainstream

- Announced today - Ampera qualifies for Plug-In Car Grant of £5000
- Customers to pay £28,995 after benefiting from grant
- UK's first extended-range electric vehicle now an uncompromised reality for families
- Up to 50 miles battery only commuting with 360-mile range when needed
- Opportunity to become a Vauxhall Ampera 'ePioneer'

VAUXHALL has announced today that its revolutionary Ampera Extended-Range Electric Vehicle (E-REV) will cost under £30k when it hits UK showrooms in early 2012, bringing the reality of a technologically sophisticated, electrically-driven, family car with an uncompromised driving range firmly into the mainstream.

After taking advantage of the £5000 Plug-In Car Grant, customers will pay just £28,995 for

the Ampera. And it's not just the price that impresses; with the efficiency of up to 50 miles range on battery power, free TFL congestion charge, no Vehicle Excise Duty payments and 5% company car taxation, Ampera's overall running costs will be extremely low.

The Vauxhall Ampera is the only real-world electric car solution for a family. It is extremely efficient, unique in the market and has a number of operating modes,

maximising performance in all circumstances. Its 50 mile battery electric drive range exceeds the UK's average commuting distance but when a longer journey is required, Ampera's range-extender engine / generator produces electricity on board. The generator engages seamlessly once the battery has reached a minimum level of charge. The 50-mile battery electric range is

thus extended by 310 miles permitting the driver to travel up to 360 miles without the need for recharging or refuelling.

A full charge for Ampera's battery can be achieved in less than four hours via a domestic 240v electricity socket at an average cost of around £1, depending on tariff. Commuting within the 50 mile range will ensure very low running costs on battery electric drive

only.

Become an ePioneer

Vauxhall is offering the exciting opportunity to become an ePioneer and be amongst the first to own an Ampera. For a £150 fully refundable reservation fee, potential customers can register at www.vauxhall-ampera.co.uk where they can pre-order an Ampera and also access exclusive events and opportunities in the build up to launch. There is no commitment to purchase.



Used car finance market grows for fourth consecutive month

THE NUMBER of used cars sold on finance rose for the fourth consecutive month, according to new figures published today by the Finance & Leasing Association. But the new car market is more volatile.

Used car finance increased 7% by value and 11% by volume in October compared to October 2009. The rise comes after the Government's scrappage scheme led to a shortage of quality used cars. Since the scrappage scheme – and other incentives such as the 15% VAT rate – ended consumers have reverted to the used car market when replacing their cars.

In the same month sales of new cars on finance dropped 11% compared to October last year, although the market was up 22% in the twelve months to October 2010. There were also positive signs for motor finance providers, with the percentage of private new cars bought using dealer finance exceeding the 50% level for the first time since July 2009.

The recovery in the business car

finance sector remains volatile. The number of new cars bought on finance by businesses fell by 11% in October compared with the same month in 2009. The business used car finance market reported volumes down by 34% over the same period.

Commenting on October's motor finance figures, Paul Harrison, Head of Motor Finance, said: "The continued revival of the used car market reflects a return to 'traditional' buying habits as buyers look to manage their budgets by seeking out affordable cars and finance. Until recently there was a shortage of popular models of used cars and this drove up the price. The end of the scrappage scheme has led to a rebalance of supply and demand."

But motor lenders' Christmas cheer will be tempered by the prospect of a tough market in the New Year, as the VAT rise takes effect and public sector spending cuts impact on people's pockets."



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Blind spot warning system for 2011 Infiniti EX

ALREADY one of the most safety conscious 4x4s available, Infiniti's sporting coupé crossover, the EX, takes a further step ahead of rivals with a new Blind Spot Warning (BSW) system for 2011. With both audible and visual signals to alert the driver to an adjacent vehicle in the blind spot area, this valuable real-world aid further reinforces an unparalleled list of safety technologies all fitted as standard to the top-selling EX GT Premium, in either high performance petrol or diesel forms.

Blind Spot Warning joins other innovative technologies such as Intelligent Cruise Control, Intelligent Brake Assist, Forward Collision Warning and Lane Departure Prevention to make Infiniti's anti-collision Dynamic Safety Shield more complete than ever.

For the first time all the safety elements, including Lane Departure Prevention which made its European SUV debut in the EX30d in summer 2010, will be standard on GT Premium versions of both V6 petrol and V6 diesel models, echoing the latest systems fitted to Infiniti's just-launched executive saloon, the M.

Many of the features of the Dynamic Safety Shield are unavailable in even latest-generation SUV rivals.

Dynamic Safety Shield provides a "bubble" of protection all around the vehicle and works to avert risk at three levels: by informing the driver of potential hazards, by intervening to help avoid a collision, and by lessening the effects of a crash should one occur.

The new Blind Spot system helps drivers by taking some of the risk out of lane-change manoeuvres. Each time a vehicle enters the EX's blind spot area amber lights at the base of the door mirrors start to blink. If the driver activates the indicator, showing an intention to change lanes, the lights are supplemented by a warning sound – further indication of a potentially

dangerous situation.

In all other ways the 2011 version of the sports all-wheel drive crossover is just as fully equipped, potent and rewarding to drive as its predecessor – but with slightly less orange in the dashboard display. In the only design change for 2011, the needles of the twin dials and the graphics of the trip information screen now show white in a move which enhances quality, improves legibility and harmonizes interior colours. It's a small change but an important one. Well, it's important to a company as fanatical about attention to detail as Infiniti.



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*Models shown are the Ibiza SC 1.4 85 PS £10,051 RRP; Leon Sport 1.4 TSI 125PS £14,544 RRP and Exeo GT 5 2.0 TDI CR 143PS £17,485 RRP with metallic paint at £333 RRP. *Reduction equivalent to 17.5% VAT applied to original base price including factory options on new car deliveries taken before 31 December 2010. On selected models only, VAT is still applicable and will be shown on the customer invoice. Price shown indicates RRP with the equivalent of no VAT, plus the Road Fund Licence and First Reg Fee. Retail sales only at participating Dealers. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. For full terms and conditions contact your local dealer or see seat.co.uk. **Low emissions based on CO2 figures for the SEAT range starting at 93g/km. ***Alloy wheels available on selected models only.

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Škoda superb estate is fifth gear's family car of the year

ŠKODA UK is celebrating a Superb ending to 2010 as the brand's flagship model was named Family Car of the Year by Channel 5's hit show Fifth Gear.

"Right at the beginning of the year, I crowned this the greatest estate ever – and I stand by that even now. The mixture of space, speed, refinement, value, economy, comfort – it's a beaut," said Fifth Gear presenter, Jonny Smith. "Honestly, if you're a dad and you need a car to carry all the flotsam and jetsam that comes with it, this is the car you need. It's faultless. I love it."

This latest accolade represents the 20th awarded for Škoda UK this year, with the Octavia, Yeti, Superb and Superb Estate racking

up a raft of product awards across a wide range of publications and organisations. The Superb alone has this year won two Auto Express gongs, for Best Family and Best Estate Car; Best Large Car and Best Estate Car from Diesel Car; The Caravan Club's class winner and Towcar of the Year; and Fleet News' Best Upper-

Medium Car to name but a few. The Superb Estate was also named Top Gear's Luxury Car of the Year 2009. Meanwhile, the brand was named Which? Manufacturer of the Year and given the What Car? Reader Award for Best Manufacturer 2010.

Škoda also recently came top in the Auto Express Driver Power

Survey, while the brand was yet again ranked in the top 10 manufacturers of the J D Power Customer Satisfaction Survey for the 17th consecutive year.

These accolades are reflected by record sales, with more than 39,000 sold in the UK so far this year, increasing overall market share to over 2%.



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streetdigest

■ **LETHAL:** Will Aplin scored five in Shepton Beauchamp Reserves' 8-0 hammering of Chard Rangers Reserves.

Updated cup draws

CORONATION CUP - FINAL: Lyme Regis v Perry Street (at Combe, Monday, December 27th - 11am kick-off).
REG EGLON CUP - Semi-finals: Barrington Res v Chard United Res, Waytown Hounds or Combe B v West & Middle Chinnock Res.
ARTHUR GAGE CUP - Quarter-finals: Ilminster Colts v Thorncombe, Perry Street Res v Netherbury, Crewkerne Town v Millwey Rise or Norton Ath, Lyme Regis Res or Winsham United v Forton Rangers.

Pick of the League

NEW Pick-of-the-League manager Karl Diment has named the following squad for tomorrow's trip to Somerton to take on the Yeovil League in the Jubilee Cup: Adam Caddy, Matt Laing, Dom Rowe, Mark Bailey, Joel Gostling (*all Lyme Regis*), Adam Berry, Jack Jennings (*both Merriott*), Sam Dibbling, Matt Hall (*both Millwey Rise*), Lee Richards, Danny Rendall, Sam Bourne, Mark Tiernery, Marcus Alexander, Karl Diment (*all South Petherton*).

Lyme Regis FC Christmas auction

LYME Regis FC are holding a Christmas auction at the Davey Fort tomorrow (December 18th).

Lots include signed football and Cricket memorabilia, hampers, meal vouchers and gifts.

Start time is 7pm - everybody is welcome.

Top Scorers

PREMIER: Scott Jennings (Merriott Rovers) 15, Marcus Alexander (South Petherton), Jon Hayter (both South Petherton) 11.

DIVISION ONE: Tim Hussey (Hawkhurst United) 18, Sam Dibbling (Millwey Rise) 13, Paul Gold, Jamie Spurdle, Barry Hayne (*all Crewkerne Town*) 11.

DIVISION TWO: Dan Pyett (Beaminster Reserves) 14, Alex Cottle and Gavin Fowler (both Uplyme), 12, Josh Hunter (Beaminster Reserves) 11.

DIVISION THREE: Marco Quedas (Luso-Chard) 24, Neil Hawkins (Misterton Res) 16 Aaron Hodges (Crewkerne Reserves), Ricky Smith (Misterton Reserves) 13.

DIVISION FOUR: Ashley Cooper (W & M Chinnock Res) 16, Will Aplin (Shepton Beauchamp Reserves) 15, Dan Rudge (W & M Chinnock Reserves) 13. (*Excl Chard Hospital Cup*).

League require balls

IN a highly unusual step, PSL officials have requested that both Perry Street and Lyme Regis each bring two of their own footballs for use in the Coronation Cup Final on December 27th.

For many years the League has supplied their own footballs for use in PSL finals.

STREET SCENE

HOWARD LARCOMBE
reporting on the
Perry Street League



Perry Street through to Coronation Final

BEN Stevens' fifth and sixth goals of the season went some way to securing a Coronation Cup Final berth for Perry Street last weekend.

Danny Wiseman and Jay Bailey also scored for the Mothers who hammered Ilminster Reserves 4-0 to set-up a final against cup-holders Lyme Regis at Combe's Slades Cross Ground on Monday, December 27th.

As expected the Reg Egton Cup quarter-final produced some tight matches.

Barrington Reserves were the top performers with six different scorers in a 6-2 win over neighbours Ilminster A.

An Ian Wells-Burr goal in extra-time proved decisive as Chard United Reserves scraped past Hinton Reserves 3-2. It was the same scoreline at West & Middle Chinnock where, as predicted in this column, the hosts' Reserves side knocked-out cup holders Thorncombe Reserves.

The Waytown v Combe B game was postponed as landlords' Netherbury's Dorset Junior cup quarter-final took preference.

And there was one. Winsham United are the sole Perry Street League side left standing in this season's Somerset Junior and Intermediate cups.

Holders South Petherton crashed out of the Junior Cup beaten 3-2 at Bath Arsenal after extra-time.

Pethy manager Gordy Childs has however strengthened his squad for the championship run-in by signing Tom Warren from Castle Cary and re-signing Rich Hebditch from Westland Sports. The livewire striker scored 32 goals for Petherton last season.

In the Intermediate Cup Forton Rangers bowed out 3-2 at Stogursey and Combe A were thrashed 8-1 at home by Weston St John.

Back in the league, goals from Haydn Smith, Lee Martin and Pete Symes catapulted Merriott Rovers to the top of the table. Rovers, in action for the first time in a month be struggling Combe Reserves 3-2.

Meanwhile Misterton and Barrington shared six goals and the points at Unity Lane. Craig Studley scored twice for Missy who extended their unbeaten home run to five matches.

In Division One Crewkerne took another step towards a return to the premier with a 3-0 win at Lyme Reserves. Paul Gold, Jamie Spurdle and Barry Hayne scored for the Tigers.

The Thorncombe revival under Tommy O'Hare continued with a 3-2 win over Ilminster Colts. Rich Gorst netted the winner for the Thorns who have taken nine points from four matches.

The highlight in Division Two was Sam Murley's hat-trick for Shepton in a 5-2 win at Hawkchurch.

In Division Three Richard White and Bryan Tillotson both scored twice in Winsham Reserves' 4-3 win at fellow strugglers Millwey Rise Reserves.

The weekend's top individual performance came from Shepton Reserves' striker Will Aplin who scored five in the 8-0 rout of Chard Rangers Reserves.

The entire Premier Division schedule was cancelled tomorrow due to the pick-of-the-league side's trip to Somerton to take on their Yeovil League counterparts.

JOHN FOWLER CUP SEMI-FINALS

Two of the Division Three strugglers have a chance of salvaging a cup final appearance from difficult season when Winsham United Reserves travel to Drimpton.

The hosts lifted the trophy back in 1993-94 whilst their now defunct Reserves' side are the most successful side in the 38-year history of the competition with three triumphs (80-81, 92-93, 02-03).

The other semi sees second placed Luso-Chard entertain leaders Misterton Reserves at Forton.

BILL BAILEY CUP

CHARD United and Crewkerne Town Reserves both head into Devon for first round ties against Reserves teams from Farway and Millwey Rise respectively.

Form would suggest both Somerset teams will return home with their names in the quarter-finals.

DIVISION ONE

THREE of the promotion favourites are on their travels tomorrow.

Leaders Winsham United visit Lyme Regis Reserves looking to protect their 100 per cent record.

Lyme are struggling, but the tight confines of the Davey Fort have tripped up many teams in the past.

Crewkerne Town have won all four away games so far this season. This should become five after the trip to Ilminster Reserves who are struggling with just one win from four outings.

Match of the day could well be at Norton. It will be interesting to see how visitors Millwey Rise react to an 8-4 Devon County Cup mauling at Woodbury last weekend.

It's many years since Rise were beaten so heavily and their 28-game unbeaten league record could come under threat as a result.

Thorncombe's recent upturn in form has given their survival hopes a huge boost. This will be



■ CREWKERNE Town strikers Paul Gold (centre), Barry Hayne (11) and Jamie Spurdle (grounded) challenge for a loose ball in Saturday's 3-0 win over Lyme Regis Reserves at the Davey Fort. All three found hte net as the Tigers took another step towards a return to the Premier Division.
Photo by JON MATTHEWS

further enhanced by three points from the trip to Perry Street Reserves who include ex-Thorncombe striker Stuart Packer who left Horseshoe Lane under something of a cloud back in October - it could be interesting.

Put your shirt on Forton Rangers bagging three more points from the visit of Charmouth.

DIVISION TWO

SHEPTON Beauchamp's unbeaten record will be tested to the full when they visit league leaders Beaminster Reserves.

A win for Anthony Smith's side could see Shepton up as high as second and the title races blown wide open.

Fourth meets third as Dowlish & Donyatt entertain Crewkerne Rangers in a clash that looks too

close to call.

At the other end of the table the bottom two Chard Rangers and Forton Reserves meet at Jocelyn Park. A win may just give flickering hope of survival whilst a loss seems certain to spell division three football next season.

DIVISION THREE

THE only game tomorrow sees midtable Combe A visit Venlake to take on Lyme Bantams.

DIVISION FOUR

LOOK out for goals at Oxleaze tomorrow where the league's top scorers West & Middle Chinnock Reserves entertain bottom-of-the-pile Chard Rangers Reserves.

THIS WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

JUBILEE CUP

Yeovil League XI v
Perry Street League XI

BILL BAILEY CUP

ROUND ONE
Farway United Res v Chard United
Millwey Rise Res v Crewkerne Res

JOHN FOWLER CUP SEMI-FINALS

Drimpton v Winsham United Res

Luso-Chard v Misterton Reserves

DIVISION ONE

Ilminster Colts v Crewkerne Town
Lyme Regis Res v Winsham United
Perry Street Reserves v Thorncombe
Forton Rangers v Charmouth
Norton Athletic v Millwey Rise

DIVISION TWO

Beaminster Res v Shepton Beau
Chard Rangers v Forton Reserves

Dowlish & Donyatt v Crewk Rangers
Pymore v Uplyme

DIVISION THREE

Lyme Regis Bantams v Combe A

DIVISION FOUR

Barrington Res v Hinton Reserves
Chard Utd Res v Thorncombe Res
Hawkhurst Res v Waytown Hounds
Shepton Beauchamp Res v Combe B
W&M Chinn v Chard Rangers Res

SEND YOUR CLUB NEWS TO
howard@pemedial.co.uk

Weekender Sport puts Ilminster Town Reserves' player-manager Rob Sutton... ON THE SPOT - see page 31



RUGBY REVIEW

Chard look to pile up the points

ON the final league Saturday of 2010 all three major contenders for a promotion place from the Somerset Premier Division have games in which they should record a bonus point win.

CHARD, after their frustrations of last Saturday, when they crossed the Avon whitewash on several occasions but were unable to convince the referee of the legality of their touch downs, entertain bottom club, ST BERNADETTES OLD BOYS.

I seem to remember that the Denning Field Brigade came out on top of these opponents by over 70 points when the sides met earlier in the season, and will be most disappointed if they do not do so again. In fact they must if they are to keep pace with their rivals.

Bonus points have been recently introduced into the lower divisions and I suspect they will become vital when the promotion and relegation issues are sorted out next April.

The Chard club endured the heartache of losing a promotion play-off at the end of last season, and will certainly not wish to go through that agonising experience again.

Even at this early stage in their campaign, they have it all

to do if they are to be promoted as champions, and the acquiring of winning bonus points for scoring four tries will be integral to their success.

Last Saturday's 12-12 draw will not have helped them and they may well take out their frustrations on St Bernadettes. They should be able to notch a bonus point with ease on Saturday, as should their promotion rivals.

Putting the record straight will certainly be on the minds of CREWKERNE when SOMERTON visit Henhayes on Saturday. They were overturned by these opponents when the sides met back in September on a day when they were not over pleased with their performance.

They felt that they should have done much better on that occasion and I do seem to recall muted vows being made as to the outcome when next the sides met.

On a serious note, I did regard Somerton as potential promotion candidates at the start of the season, but they certainly have not lived up to my expectations of them.

Crewkerne for their part, have improved since that earlier meeting and they might just make home advantage count on Saturday. There won't be much in it though.

Chard seconds travel to Wiveliscombe to meet that club's second side, and should return with a win. I see that their opponents conceded when the sides were scheduled to meet earlier in the season and they have not done too much subsequently to indicate that their position in the lower half of the Somerset League Division Two (South) is a false one.

The Chard third side take on Wyvern at Crewkerne Road. I seem to remember that their opponents used to be a Sunday morning team, drawn from the Taunton area. They seem to have settled well enough to Saturday rugby and lie several places above the home side in the division table. Nevertheless I do take Chard to win this one, but not by much.

FIXTURES 11th December: Chard v St Bernadettes Old Boys; Wiveliscombe 2nd v Chard 2nd; Chard 3rd v Wyvern; Crewkerne v Somerton.

Chard & District Swimming Club

CHARD & District Swimming Club took part in the recent Exeter City Level 3 Open Meet held at the Pyramid Pool.

Chard swimmers dominated with many top three positions throughout the day and achieved six new club records and a numerous amount of South West Regional Qualifying/consideration times writes Steph Hallam.

Tessa Down, 13, was on fine form throughout the day. She obtained three South West Regional Qualifying times with four new 14 years and under club records to her name. Tessa had a hat-trick of wins in the 50m Breaststroke, 100m Breaststroke and 200m Individual Medley.

Meanwhile, **Jake Hallam**, emerged victorious in the 14 years age group with five wins with 2 South West Regional Qualifying Times, 2 South West Regional consideration times and 2 new 14 years and under Club Records.

Abigail Dare, 13, got two South West Regional Qualifying times in the 50m Backstroke finishing in 1st place (32.82) and in the 200m Individual Medley (2-38.81) coming in 2nd place. She amassed four more wins in the 100m Backstroke (1-12.03), and 200m Backstroke (2-36.22) both of which were South West Regional consideration times, and in the 100m Freestyle and 50m Butterfly.

Luke van den Barselaar, 15, was also on good form with three wins. He obtained a South West Regional consideration time of (2-05.88) in the 200m Freestyle and won both the 100m Butterfly and 100m Individual Medley.

Jamie Pullinger, 12, secured two South West Regional Qualifying times winning the 100m Backstroke (1-17.16) and 200m Backstroke.

Elisha Hawkins, 11, won the 100m Breaststroke in a time of 1-32.92 and the 200m Breaststroke in 3-12.57, both of which were South West Regional Qualifying times. She also came 1st in the 100m Individual Medley.

Madeline Ryder, 15, came 1st in the 50m Freestyle and won the 50m Butterfly event.

Charlie Kendall, 10, bagged three wins in the 50m Breaststroke, 50m Backstroke and 100m Individual Medley.

Ben Fowler, 14, won the 100m Backstroke, **Tamsin Edge**, 10, won the 50m Breaststroke, **Ryan Adair**, 10, came 1st in the 50m Butterfly, **Joe Spurway**, 13, won the 50m Backstroke, **Billie-Jo Dance**, 13, won both the 100m and 200m Butterfly events, **Jamie Lillington**, 13, won the 100m Butterfly.



Tessa Down

FOOTBALL - SOMERSET SENIOR

ROBINS BOOSTED BY LEAGUE WIN DOUBLE

By Howard Larcombe

A SIX point haul in five days has left Chard Town's position in the Toolstation League Division looking rosy when compared to a season spent thus far in the bottom two or three places.

The Robins currently sit in the lofty heights of 14th after impressive wins over Bradford Town and Calne Town.

Saturday's win saw Chard recover from falling behind just after half-time when Sam Clark netted his 12th goal of the season and then turned provider as Sam Spurway scored the three-point clincher.

Star of the show was stopper Stu Parris who made a string of fine saves, particularly in the first 45.

The welcome win was bolstered by Wednesday's 3-2 win at Calne which saw The Robins record their first back-to-back wins of the current campaign.

ILMINSTER TOWN

ANOTHER goalkeeper in good form was Ilminster Town's Chris May. The towering gloveman thwarted the visiting Odd Down attack on several occasions in Saturday's vital 2-0 win.

Ex-West & Middle Chinnock striker Ian Masters opened the scoring with his first goal for the Blues' first team.

The result, which saw Darren Manley's side settle into third spot in the Somerset League Division One table, was secured when substitutes Chris Neziyanya and Dan Vining combined for the latter to smash home the second.

Manley and his troops were further boosted by the news that promotion rivals Berron and Frome Collegians were held by Cleve West Town and Bishop Sutton Reserves respectively. "I thought The Collegians may have found it tough but the Berron result was a real bonus for us."

Tomorrow Ilminster entertain Bishop Sutton Reserves in the round two of the Somerset Senior Cup. Manley is expecting a tight game, he said: "I know they (Bishop Sutton) have picked up a couple of players recently. But this is a cup that I do think we

have a reasonable chance of going all the way in. Obviously Westland Sports, who knocked us out on penalties last year will be one to look out for."

Manley will have the luxury of naming a more or less identical team for the first time this season. "They are all fit and available, and we also have the Reserves available as they have no fixture."

COMBE St NICHOLAS

A 3-1 WIN at lowly Worle has seen Combe St Nicholas consolidate their fifth place position in the Somerset League Division Two (West).

The Saints visit Long Ashton, another of the Division's strugglers, tomorrow.

With Wells City Reserves facing a trip to league leaders Ashton & Backwell, a fifth win on their travels in the league could see Combe move up a place to fourth in the table.

Yeovil & District Mixed Tennis

Division 1	Pld	Pts	Division 3	Pld	Pts
Sherborne A.....	6	45	Wincanton.....	4	33
Melcombe R.....	6	38	Misterton A.....	5	24
Martock A.....	5	35	Beaminster.....	4	23
Charmouth.....	6	24	Bridport A.....	3	19
Chard A.....	5	20	Yeovil B.....	5	18
Yeovil A.....	4	14	Somerton B.....	3	13
Sherborne B.....	6	14	Somerton C.....	4	10

Division 2	Pld	Pts	Division 4	Pld	Pts
S.Petherton A.....	5	41	Bridport B.....	6	40
Martock B.....	4	21	S.Petherton B.....	5	30
Somerton A.....	4	17	Yeovil C.....	5	28
Ilminster.....	3	16	Martock C.....	6	27
Weymouth A.....	3	12	Weymouth B.....	5	22
Chard B.....	3	3	Sutton Montis.....	5	20
			Misterton B.....	4	13

sportsdigest

Crewkerne Skittles League

Division One	Pld	Pts	Nomads.....	10	61
Lost Boys.....	10	96	Concorde.....	10	60
Super Sexy Six.....	10	82	Coombe Boys.....	10	52
Muddled Men.....	10	79	Willy Low Flyers.....	10	42
Headhunters.....	10	71	Kings Head B.....	10	39
The Fryers.....	10	69	Loud & Proud.....	10	33
King Willy Dogs.....	10	58			
Rollers.....	10	54	Division Three	Pld	Pts
Disney.....	10	51	Royal Oak A.....	10	78
Coachmen.....	10	49	Numpies.....	10	76
Sports 92.....	10	44	Perrott Monkeys.....	10	74
Royal Oak Drimptn.....	10	31	Swan Fixers.....	10	71
Swan Fokkers.....	10	30	Con Club Legends.....	10	69
			Contwistadors.....	10	58
			Motley Crew.....	10	57
Division Two	Pld	Pts	Football Club.....	10	85
Pinbusters.....	10	78	Sandbaggers.....	10	56
Brewers Bees.....	10	76	Chis Colts.....	10	55
Rug Rats.....	10	69	Dinnington Astros.....	10	47
Skimmers.....	10	63	Hung Like Horses.....	10	44
Swan Cobbs.....	10	62	Muppets.....	10	23

Ilminster & District skittles

NOMINATION League

Group One: Hatch Eggs 183-1 (D.Knight 40, G.Sutton 11) Hatch Beagles 284-11 (M.Anderson 42, G.Dibble 29), Wyndham Arms 219-3 (B.Bragg 39, D.Yard 17) Flying Turkeys 236-9 (J.House 41, L.Gilman 13), Flying Turkeys 291-9 (S.Ash 53, A.Whitefield, J.House 27) Hatch Beagles 265-3 (A.Stone 48, G.Dibble 24).

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Hatch Beagles.....	5	4	0	1	45
Flying Turkeys.....	5	4	0	1	42
Wyndham Arms.....	5	2	0	3	29
Hatch Eggs.....	4	1	0	3	12
Kings Head.....	3	0	0	3	4

Group Two: Carnival Clingons 293-3 (M.Lee 52, A.Berry 25) Ashill Inn 296-9 (C.Male, L.Mills 49, M.Gabriel 29), Ashill Boys 230-0 (R.Robson 34, G.Keith 17) Carnival Clingons 296-12 (M.Rowley 52, A.Berry 14).

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Ashill Inn.....	4	4	0	0	45
Carnival Clingons.....	3	2	0	1	21
Donyatt BC.....	3	1	0	2	17
Royal Oak.....	3	1	0	2	13
Ashill Boys.....	4	0	0	4	3

Group Three: Cricketers 267-12 (M.Clydesdale 48, M.Lloyd 20) Bellclangers 216-0 (W.Vickery 42, N.Phillips 10).

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Cricketers.....	4	2	0	2	26
Royals.....	3	2	0	1	24
Nomads.....	2	2	0	0	21
Bell Clangers.....	3	0	0	3	1

Group Four:

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Crown Faces.....	3	2	0	1	23
Bell A.....	3	2	0	1	21
Bell Broadway.....	3	1	0	2	15
Rockey's Rollers.....	3	1	0	2	13

Chard Indoor Bowls League

	Pld	W	D	L	+/-	Pts
Greyhounds.....	6	5	0	1	27	10
East Coker A.....	6	5	0	1	7	10
Westway.....	5	4	0	1	11	8
Magpies.....	8	4	0	4	4	8
Hurricanes.....	8	4	0	4	-1	8
Somerset Six.....	8	2	0	6	-16	7
Canaries.....	7	0	0	7	-32	0

Recent results: Somerset Six 13 Magpies 14, East Coker A 13 Canaries 12, Greyhounds 19 Hurricanes 12.



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Glovers In Focus

By Stuart Broom



Dreams of lucrative cup run ended by four goal salvo

ALARM bells, not Christmas bells should be ringing very loudly in Yeovil Town Chairman John Fry's ears right now, as in a matter of three days Yeovil slumped to the bottom of the FA Cup by Hartlepool United having held a 2-0 lead.

The optimism of getting a very creditable draw at sixth placed Colchester on Saturday was negated 24 hours later by Walsall's fine 1-0 victory at fourth placed Charlton Athletic.

To try and put a positive spin on the situation, the Glovers point at the Weston Homes Community Stadium was an excellent result. Whilst as may be expected, Yeovil did not create many chances, they did frustrate their hosts with their 4-5-1 formation, although the nearest they got to scoring was a Nathan Smith special that fizzed past the post just before half-time, and an effort near the end when Chelsea loanee Adam Phillip, who has now returned to his parent club, had a good opportunity blocked in the last minute of added time.

The euphoria, however, was soon dulled when Matt Richards scored the only goal of the game at The Valley to leapfrog Walsall above the Glovers and leave Yeovil rock bottom and six points from safety.

Keeping a clean sheet at Colchester must have given manager Terry Skiverton heart that his side could give a good performance in their twice postponed FA Cup Second Round tie at Hartlepool, and two goals up in 31 minutes, he may have thought his Christmas had come early with the thought of a third round trip to Watford.

But his evening came crashing down as Anthony Sweeney

Useful point but Glovers hit bottom

scored twice in five minutes to equalise, before completing his hat trick just before the hour to add to Ritchie Humphreys' goal that saw Hartlepool score four times in a 25 minute spell either side of the break.

The situation, I believe, will have a significant impact on those marginal supporters who will be thinking seriously about whether they want to spend their money watching a side who have won only once in ten games, and that was against non-league Rushden & Diamonds in the FA Cup.

The loss of support at home, of course, has an impact on the revenue of the club, and with two home matches over the Christmas period is something the Glovers cannot afford.

Can Skiverton turn it around? Recent form suggests not with

the current squad, but new players cost money and there isn't enough coming into the club.

So what can we Yeovil supporters expect? It seems unlikely that Fry will sack Skiverton because he is the cheap option and the club supposedly cannot afford someone else. If that is the case then it appears relegation is the only option. Perhaps if you hang your stocking up Mr Fry, Father Christmas might bring you something good? We can always hope.

Pardew hits Toon

FORMER Yeovil Town player Alan Pardew has been appointed manager of Newcastle United following the controversial sacking of Chris Hughton by owner Mike Ashley.

Pardew played for the Glovers for two years having been signed by then manager Gerry Gow from Dulwich Hamlet, playing 60 games and scoring fifteen goals.

In 1987 he was sold to Crystal Palace then a Second Division side and was part of the team that were promoted the following season.

In 1990 he scored the winning goal in the 4-3 defeat of Liverpool in the FA Cup semi-final, and was part of the last all English-born Cup Final team that lost 1-0 after a replay to Manchester United in the final at the old Wembley Stadium.

After ending his playing career in 1999 he has managed Reading, West Ham United, Charlton Athletic and Southampton.



Free for local sports clubs - email howard@pemedial.co.uk

sportsNOTICEBOARD

■ CREWKERNE BADMINTON

CREWKERNE Hermitage Badminton Club play at Wadham School sports hall on Friday evenings between 8pm and 10pm.

The club offers both full and half season memberships as well as pay and play option.

New members are always welcome for further information contact Martin Hooper (01460 78026) or Helen Taylor (01460 77651) or simply drop in on a Friday evening.

■ TAUNTON RACECOURSE

The next raceday is scheduled for Monday, December 20th. First race is 12.25pm and the last is 3.40pm. For further details ring 01823 337172.

■ CHARD JU-JITSU

CHARD Spirit Combat Ju-Jitsu Club welcome new members. The club trains at Avishayes Primary School, Chard, on Monday evenings between 5.30pm and 7pm.

For further details contact instructor Gavin Moore on 01460 65794 or g.moore147@btinternet.com

■ **DONYATT BOWLS:** Donyatt Bowls is due to stage an inaugural Open Triples tournament sponsored by AJ Wakeley.

The following day the club plays host to a County match when Somerset take on Hampshire on Sunday.



■ **ALL SQUARE AT AVON:** Chard 1st XV were held to a 12-12 draw by Avon last weekend. **Top left:** Chard players contest a foul on Jim Wagstaff. **Top:** Neil Douglas executes a superb tackle. **Above:** Ben Stead in full flow. **Photos by: KEITH RENDELL**

ON THE SPOT...



WEEKENDER SPORT PUTS ILMINSTER RESERVES' PLAYER-MANAGER ROB SUTTON, UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Q How long have you been involved in the Perry Street League - in what capacities? who have you play for?

A SIXTEEN years in total having started at Combe when I was 14.

I have since played for Merriott Rovers where I won the league under the management of Graham Rowswell, and of course as Reserve team player-manager at Iminster.

Q Name the three best players you've played alongside.

A Andy Paull (Merriott Rovers), Tony Cunningham (Merriott Rovers), Paul Stoodley (Iminster Town Reserves).

Q What are your hopes for Iminster Reserves this season?

A To finish in the top four and hopefully have a say in the title race - and have a good cup run.

Q How would you improve things at the club?

A I would encourage more commitment from players to attend training and to push through the development of the proposed new clubhouse and playing facilities. This is a must if we want to move to the next level.

Q Who will win the Premier Division title this season?

A I can only see the title going to South Petherton as they look much too strong for anyone else.

Q Name some young Iminster Town players we should look out for in the future.

A Dan Vining: very quick and direct with a good left foot. Jon May: Tall, commanding defender. Lewis Scutt: Quick, calm, defender who likes a tackle.

NEXT WEEK: Crewkerne Town captain Jamie Spurdle.

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